

Contents of the *Memoirs of the Lewis Family*

11 Volumes, 1850-1930

Marion E. Wade Center, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

6108

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MEMOIRS
OF THE
LEWIS FAMILY.

1850 ----- 1930 .

"Those who do not look upon themselves as a link connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world."

DANIEL WEBSTER .

Leeborough Press .

1933 .

VOLUME ONE.

From October 17th., 1850 to September 23rd., 1881.



FOREWORD.

The history of a given period is not exclusively, or even mainly, the history of its famous men and women. The real history of the past lies in the answer to the question, "How did the ordinary, undistinguished man live?"

Numerous recent publications such as the Farinndon Diaries suggest that in this respect a welcome reorientation of the historians' perspective has taken place, and it is with a view to providing posterity with an addition to such all too scanty material, that the papers which follow have been embodied in a permanent form.

A word of explanation as to the origin of these papers is needful. On the 25th. of September 1929, at Strandtown near Belfast in the County of Down, there died one James Albert Lewis, leaving two sons, Warren, a Captain in the Army, and Clive, a Fellow of Magdalen College Oxford; the nature of the sons' occupations precluded any idea of either of them maintaining the father's home, and in its subsequent dissolution, a mass of papers came to light, a cursory inspection of which seemed to indicate that there was in them the kernel of a family history.

The papers were given to the present writer to sift, and as a result of that sifting, were found to fall into the following classification:

- A. Seven leather bound diaries in the handwriting of Albert's father in law, the Reverend Thomas Hamilton, covering, with omissions, the period 1850-1868, and an eighth volume containing a theological essay.
- B. Thirteen volumes of dairies by Warren Lewis, covering, with many omissions, the period 1912-1930.
- C. Eight volumes of dairies by Clive Lewis, also with omissions, covering the period 1922-1926.
- D. A number of short fragments of diaries By Albert Lewis and Clive Lewis of various dates.
- E. A quantity of unsorted papers by Albert's father, Richard Lewis, which the former had presumably brought into his house on the break up of his own old home in 1903.
- F. A large mass of letters written to and by Albert from the late 'seventies up to the time of his death, together with a miscellaneous collection of verse and other fugitive pieces. This is by far the most important part of the collection, and is more complete than such collections usually are, by reason of the fact that Albert frequently kept drafts of the whole or part of his private letters. In some cases we have the drafts and the original letters, and a comparison shows them to be practically identical; I have therefore not hesitated to use his drafts as if they were the originals, but where a draft is used, the fact is always mentioned in the text.

It remains but to add a word about the rules which I have set myself in arranging these papers.

The order of their presentation is chronological, with such modification as common sense dictated; e.g., Thomas Hamilton's essay, "What saith the Scriptures?", though written in 1870, is included with his diaries, although the subsequent chapter opens in 1858. Similarly the Albert-Edie love letters are reproduced as a story within a story in one group, though probably covering a number of years.

Except where otherwise stated, spelling mistakes have been corrected, so far as lies in my power, and punctuation has been inserted where necessary.

Where I have been unable to decipher the text, I have indicated the fact thus:—"(illegible)". Where there is a blank in the text, this indicates a blank in the original MS.

With regard to omissions, nothing has been excised except such medical and other intimate details in certain letters as are generally deemed unfit for publication.

Wherever possible I have drawn on various members of the family to supply from personal recollection, connecting links in the written material; such contributions are generally, for obvious reasons, anonymous, but I have taken such steps as were possible to satisfy myself of the accuracy of their information before using it.

I have avoided burdening the text with lengthy prolegomena and explanation of matters of public knowledge; to those who wish to read the memoirs with a commentary, I recommend Trevelyan's "British History in the Nineteenth Century, 1782-1901." (Longmans, Green and Co., 1922.)

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the authors of the following works, in addition to the editors of the usual books of reference,

"A history and genealogy of the Warren Family" by the Revd. Thomas Warren, F.R.S.A., Ireland. printed for private circulation, 1902.

"Belfast and the province of Ulster in the 20th. Century." by Robert M. Young, B.A., J.P. (Pike and Co., Brighton, 1909.)

"The Malvern College register." published for the Old Malvernian Society by Charles Murray, 1925.

THE EDITOR.

19th. May, 1933.

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